

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02692 262123Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 /014 W
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O 262110Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4586
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MOSCOW 2692

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC UR
SUBJECT: HOTEL ROSSIYA FIRE

REF: MOSCOW 2691

1. COUNSELOR OFFICER CONFIRMED AT INTOURIST HOTEL THAT GROUP OF EIGHTEEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STAYED THERE AS REPORTED REFTEL. GROUP LEFT FEBRUARY 26 FOR KIEV. CONSOFF WAS UNABLE TO FIND OUT NAME OF HOTEL IN KIEV AT WHICH THEY ARE STAYING.

2. SERVICE DESK AT WEST WING OF HOTEL ROSSIYA HAS LIST OF DEAD AND INJURED. CONSOFF WAS NOT PERMITTED TO REVIEW LIST PERSONALLY, BUT HOTEL EMPLOYEE REVIEWED LIST CAREFULLY IN HIS PRESENCE AND STATED THAT THERE WERE NO AMERICANS LISTED AMONG THE DEAD AND ONLY THE THREE AMERICANS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY LISTED AMONG THE INJURED. SHE STATED THAT THIS WAS A COMPLETE LIST.

3. CONSOFF ABLE TO MAKE ONLY ROUGH ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF NAMES ON LIST--UPWARDS OF FIFTY, BUT PROBABLY NOT MUCH MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED, PERHAPS SOMEWHAT FEWER. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL HOW MANY COMPRISED DEAD AND HOW MANY COMPRISED INJURED.

4. UPI HAS TOLD US THAT LIST OF DEAD EXISTS COMPRISING
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ELEVEN SOVIETS, ONE JAPANESE, ONE BULGARIAN, ONE EAST GERMAN AND ONE "ASIAN". RUMORS ABOUND THAT TOTAL DEAD MAY BE SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER, BUT WE HAVE NO HARD FACTS TO SUPPORT SUCH RUMORS.

5. HOSPITAL REPORTS THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS ROBERT BRAUN AND CLOYCE PALMER ARE IN "SATISFACTORY CONDITION". AMY BROWN WAS

DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL FEBRUARY 26.

6. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY HOTEL EMPLOYEE'S STATEMENT THAT NO AMERICANS ARE ON LIST OF DEAD AND INJURED; HOWEVER, SHE IS NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW DEFINITELY THAT THE LIST SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN IS IN FACT COMPLETE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CHECK WITH INTOURIST, WHICH HAS TOLD US THAT NO FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TODAY. WE WILL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW AND REPORT RESULTS.
TOON

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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